

Jennings County Commissioner Meeting
November 16, 2017 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with Matt Sporleder leading the pledge to the flag.

Jack Gay, attorney-at-law, addressed the Commissioners concerning creating a Public Defender Commission. Mr. Gay gave examples of what a staffed office would run above what is being provided currently. Mr. Gay said the total investment from the county would run around \$64,000. Mr. Gay presented a letter from the Honorable Judge Michael L. Robbins, Lawrence Superior Court I, to the Honorable Richard Poynter, Judge of Jackson Circuit Court sharing his concerns and the realization of a public defender office. Judge Robbins believed the state reimbursement would not show up and would slow down case resolution. He was concerned that the jail was already overcrowded and was opposed to the change. He admits that he was WRONG. The reimbursement came as promised and they are saving money. They put the PD office in a space the county already owned and was sitting empty. Cases are moving so much faster now and we aren't scheduling around part-time contract attorneys. The jail is now below its capacity where before it was so overcrowded he feared a federal lawsuit. He concluded that the prosecutor's lives were made easier, not harder. That Jackson County had everything to gain and nothing to fear.

Mr. Gay stated that with a Public Defender Commission the jail population could be lowered because 80% of the cases are drug related and if they can get an attorney appointed and maybe seeks treatment for their clients instead of just incarcerating them to only end up back in the system later. Mr. Gay stated that he had presented this idea to the Council and they were very receptive and had asked him to gather more information but he wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the plan he was working on.

Next the Treasurer, Kitty Shepherd, presented an Investment Policy to the Commissioners authorizing the investment of public funds in investments lasting more than two (2) years and not more than five (5) years pursuant to IC 5-13-9-5.78.

Bob Willhite made a motion to accept the Investment Policy; Dave Lane seconded the motion. Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next on the agenda was Sherri Williams, HR Director, with several options for the Commissioners for the County's Medical Healthcare. Ms. Williams stated that she would recommend going with Option #6 through United Health. The plan has an annual deductible of \$3500 for single and \$7,000 for a family which is down from \$5,000 for single and \$10,000 for family. The Clinic being offered will bring no expense to the county employee covered by this plan and prescriptions will be given free at the clinic for any medicines they stock and if you give them your list of medications they may be able to get them for

the employee or offer a discount. Ms. Williams stated this plan would run around \$66,442 over the amount budgeted for the county insurance.

Bob Willhite made a motion to go with Option #6 Plan for Healthcare for the county employees and their families; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Ms. Williams then addressed the matter of county provided Life Insurance. United Health Care offers \$5,000 more for no additional costs making the total \$25,000 coverage and the age limit moves to 70 years of age instead of the current 65.

Bob Willhite made a motion to go with United Healthcare for Life Insurance coverage for county employees. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Ms. Williams also asked the Commissioners to consider instead of having One America, Boston Mutual and Grange for life insurance providers to funnel this down to one for people with non cash value policies. Those employees with cash value policies will remain with their provider.

Bob Willhite made a motion to convert the voluntary life insurance policies with a non cash value into one carrier. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Bob Willhite made a motion to remain with Delta Dental 2 option plan and with Eye Med plan for the county. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next was the opening of bids for the County Highway for stone, gravel, asphalt, culverts and fuel.

Those submitting bids were Asphalt Materials, Inc., Metal Culverts, Inc., CivilCon, Inc., Marathon Petroleum Company, LLC, Hanson Aggregates Midwest, Winsupply of Seymour, Stearns Supply Center, Dave O'Mara Contractor, Inc., US Aggregates, Premier Companies, Globe Asphalt, New Point Stone Co., Inc., Ellis Gas & Oil, Inc. and Milestone Contractors, L.P..

Bob Willhite made a motion to accept all bids and table until next meeting for Jim Reeves, County Highway Superintendent, to go over all bids and submit his findings at the next meeting on December 14th. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next was Greg Wilds, County Maintenance, with 3 bids for the window restoration project at the County Courthouse. Those bids were Kemna Restoration and Construction, Inc. out of Indianapolis with a bid of \$275,000; Coon Restoration & Sealants, Inc. out of Ohio with a bid of \$206,980 and Ken Neely Building Restoration LLC out of Columbus with a bid of \$123,000.

Bob Willhite made a motion to award the bid to Ken Neely; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Bob Willhite made a motion to approve prior minutes; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Bob Willhite made a motion to sign claims and payroll; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous.

Jim Reeves presented an LPA – Consulting Contract with Janssen & Spaans Engineering, Inc. for the O & M Avenue and Brownstown road Rehabilitation Project in Seymour District for Commissioners signatures.

Next Auditor Vance presented a bill from FPBH, Inc. for Bradshaw Building Specialties, Inc. for Pay Application #1 for \$27,650 for Fairgrounds Restroom.

Bob Willhite made a motion to pay Bradshaw Building Specialties, Inc. \$27,650. David Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Bob Willhite made a motion to adjourn; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous.

Attest:

Kary Sue Vance, Auditor

Matt Sporleder

Matt Sporleder, President

Robert Willhite

Robert Willhite

David Lane

David Lane